

**Fair Political Practices Commission**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Chairman Johnson, Commissioners Hodson, Huguenin, Leidigh and Remy  
**From:** Whitney Barazoto, Government Affairs Director  
**Subject:** Legislative Report<sup>1</sup>  
**Date:** May 30, 2008

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May 30, 2008, is the official deadline by which a bill must pass out of its house of origin in order to continue to move forward in the legislative process. However, since both houses completed their work on Thursday, May 29, and adjourned until Monday, June 2, the practical deadline became May 29, and this report reflects the status of each bill upon the close of session that night.

Several bills failed to meet this and other deadlines or have been amended to no longer affect the Political Reform Act. AB 2795, AB 3003, and our Commission-sponsored SB 1602 failed to pass their respective Appropriations Committees due to the cost imposed by each bill. AB 1859 was amended and no longer impacts the Political Reform Act, and AB 2506 failed to pass the Assembly by the house of origin deadline. Each of these bills will be removed from this list in the next legislative report.

**Current Legislation**

**AB 229 (Strickland) Ethics in Government**

This bill was recently amended and would now amend the Code of Civil Procedure to provide that the California anti-SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) statute, which allows a defendant to file a motion to strike in a case brought against him to chill his First Amendment rights as they relate to a public issue, shall not apply to the injunctive relief remedy available under the Political Reform Act. This bill is similar to AB 2624 (Strickland), which would have made the same change by amending the Political Reform Act. AB 2624 failed to pass the Assembly Judiciary Committee by the policy committee deadline.

**Status: Senate Rules Committee**

**AB 357 (Mendoza) Legal Defense Funds**

This bill would allow legal defense funds to be used to pay attorney's fees and costs related to election recounts and election contests.

**Status: Senate Elections Committee**

**AB 583 (Hancock) Clean Money Act**

This bill would enact the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006, which would authorize eligible candidates for Governor and for one seat in each legislative house to obtain public funds to campaign for elective office. The bill provides a revenue stream for the Clean Money Fund, but it leaves the cost of administering and enforcing the program subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

**Status: Senate Elections Committee**

**Position: Oppose (fiscal)**

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<sup>1</sup> At its public meeting, the Commission may discuss or take a position on any item included in this report.

**AB 1859 (Adams)                      Theft of Fire Hydrants**

This bill was recently amended and now adds a section to the Penal Code to impose higher penalties for theft of fire hydrant parts. The provisions relating to online posting of campaign statements have been deleted.

**Status: Senate Rules Committee**

**AB 1998 (Silva)                      Local Agency Formation Commission Proposals**

This bill would extend the provisions of the Political Reform Act that currently apply to a ballot measure to a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) proposal that is initiated as a petition. It also requires monthly reporting by a committee supporting or opposing a LAFCO proposal until the proposal is placed on the ballot or the committee is otherwise terminated.

**Status: Senate Elections Committee**

**AB 2506 (Feuer)                      Advertisements**

This bill would impose disclosure requirements on advertisements that attempt to influence legislative or administrative action.

**Status: Assembly Floor (inactive file)**

**AB 2552 (Krekorian)                      Independent Expenditures**

This bill would require an advertisement to include in descending order the names of the top two contributors to the committee that made the independent expenditure to pay for the advertisement. Current law requires the top two contributors to be named in the ad; this bill would require the names to be listed in descending order, based on the amount of the contribution made by the donor to the committee.

**Status: Senate Elections Committee**

**AB 2607 (Davis)                      Electronic Filing of SEI's**

This bill would allow Los Angeles County and Orange County to begin a pilot program to permit the electronic filing of Statements of Economic Interests (SEI's) for a period of three years, beginning on January 1, 2009.

**Status: Senate Elections Committee**

**AB 2795 (Blakeslee)                      Gifts**

This bill would extend the \$10 monthly gift limit that currently applies to lobbyists and lobbying firms to lobbyist employers, who are not currently subject to a monthly limit but are presently bound by the annual \$390 gift limit. The new monthly gift limit for lobbyist employers would not apply when the employer provides food or refreshments of "nominal value," which is defined as worth no more than \$50 per month, at specified types of events. These "nominal value" gifts would still be capped at \$390 per year.

**Status: Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee**

**AB 3003 (Hayashi)                      1090 Pilot Project**

This bill would create a three-year pilot project to allow the Commission to issue opinions on the application of Government Code section 1090-1091.5, relating to conflicts of interests of public officials and employees in public contracting. The bill appropriates \$150,000 to the Commission for the project.

**Status: Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee**

**ACA 1 (Nunez)****Legislative Reform**

This constitutional amendment would prohibit a state legislator from serving more than 12 years in the Senate, Assembly, or both, in any combination of terms. It would prohibit a legislator or governor from accepting campaign contributions during certain periods of time leading up to the passage of the state budget, and it would establish a 17-member commission to conduct the process of redistricting.

**Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee**

**SB 1204 (Denham)****Electronic Filing of SEI's**

This bill would allow a state or local filing officer to receive a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) electronically.

**Status: Assembly Elections Committee**

**SB 1602 (Scott)****Behested Payments**

This Commission-sponsored bill would require online filing of payments that are made at the behest of a candidate who is an elected officer and that are made principally for legislative, governmental, or charitable purposes ("behested payments"). It would also extend the filing date from 30 days to 45 days for those filing electronically.

**Status: Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee**

**Position: Sponsor**

**SB 1772 (Sen. Rules Com.) Behested Payments**

This bill would extend existing "behested payments" reporting requirements to members of the Public Utilities Commission.

**Status: In Assembly**